

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

STR-08 CEA-02 DRC-01 /204 W
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R 021444Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6055

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5138

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: PZPR POLITBURO SETS OCTOBER 11 PLENUM AS
PRELUDE TO PARTY CONFERENCE

1. TRYBUNA LUDU ON OCT 2 PUBLISHED A POLITBURO ANNOUNCE-
MENT THAT THE TENTH CC PLENUM WILL BE HELD OCT 11 TO
DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING NATIONAL PARTY
CONFERENCE AND TO HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS PLANNING COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DURING 1971-1973.

2. ALTHOUGH A DATE FOR THE PARTY CONFERENCE HAS NOT YET
BEEN ANNOUNCED, PZPR CANDIDATE MEMBERS HAVE TOLD US IT
WILL BE HELD ABOUT OCT 21-23. THE CONFERENCE IS BEING
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BILLED AS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND. THE PARTY STATUTE

PROVIDES FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE TO COVER THE INTERVAL BETWEEN PARTY CONGRESSES, WHICH ARE NORMALLY CONVENED EVERY FOUR YEARS; HOWEVER, THE GIEREK REGIME SEEMS TO BE THE FIRST TO HAVE MADE USE OF THE PARTY CONFERENCE MECHANISM. THE FACT THAT, AS WE HAVE LEARNED, DELEGATES WILL BE ELECTED RATHER THAN APPOINTED, AS IS THE PRACTICE FOR OTHER PARTY GATHERINGS, ILLUSTRATE THE REGIME'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AT LEAST THE SEMBLANCE OF INCREASED DEMOCRATIZATION.

3. PRESS DISCUSSIONS PREPARATORY TO THE CONFERENCE HAVE SO FAR EMPHASIZED ECONOMIC ISSUES. OUR SOURCES CONFIRM THAT THE MAJOR ISSUE OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION AND, PARTICULARLY, HOW TO RELAX THE PRICE FREEZE, WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT NEARLY THREE YEARS, WITHOUT PRECIPITATING UNACCEPTABLE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. RUMORS ARE BEGINNING TO ABOUND IN WARSAW THAT SIGNIFICANT PRICE INCREASES ARE IN THE OFFING, OR THAT SOME HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE IN THE GUISE OF CHANGES IN PACKAGING OR ALLEGED QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS. AMONG THE MOST FREQUENT RUMORS ARE THOSE OF PRICE INCREASES OF UP TO 30 PERCENT ON WOOL AND LEATHER PRODUCTS AND SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN FURNITURE PRICES.
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NNN

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